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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W
---------- 099908
P R 121133Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 60
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6257

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT JA
SUBJ: THE INABA AFFAIR

REF: TOKYO 6136

SUMMARY.A POLITICAL INDISCRETION BY JUSMIN INABA HAS LET TO TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DIET SESSIONS. RESPONSES TO OPPOSITION PARTY QUESTIONERS BY INABA (AND PRIMIN MIKI) MAY 13 WILL LIKELY DETERMINE WHETHER DIET SESSIONS WILL RESUME SHORTLY OR BE STALLED INDEFINITELY. AT STAKE IS DELIBERATION OF PRIMIN'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. JUSMIN OSAMU INABA (NAKASONE FACTION) CELEBRATED MAY 3 CONSTITUTION DAY BY ATTENDING RALLY OF GROUP PLEDGED TO REVISE PRESENT CONSTITUTION. OPPOSITION PARITES, FOR WHICH CONSTITUTION IS SACROSANCT, IMMEDIATELY GAVE CRY. ON MAY 5 INABA FAILED TO RECANT DESPITE APPARENT CABINET--AND CLEARLY MIKI--DESIRE TO RESOLVE ISSUE. AFTER ANOTHER INABA PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 6 DURING WHICH HE CONTINUED TO TALK ABOUT "DEFECTS" OF PRESENT CONSTITUTION, OPPOSITION PARTIES REFUSED TO ATTEND PLENARY DIET SESSIONS BEGINNING MAY 7. RATHER CONFIDENTIAL

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THAN ANTAGONIZE OPPOSITION FURTHER, GOVERNMENT DECIDED NOT TO HOLD SESSIONS.

2. MITI MINISTER TOSHIO KOMOTO TOLD US MAY 7 THAT RESPONSES

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OF PRIMIN AND INABA IN UPPER HOUSE JUSTICE COMMITTEE SESSION
SCHEDULED FOR MAY 13 ARE LIKELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER PLENARY
SESSIONS CAN BE HELD AGAIN SOON. IF THINGS GO WELL, DIET
COULD OPEN MAY 14. IF NOT, DIET LIKELY TO BE STALLED
INDEFINITELY AND, ALONG WITH IT, PRIMIN MIKI'S LEGISLATIVE
PROGRAM (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT. AT OUTSET INABA AFFAIR LOOKED LIKE GAFFE
"OF PRINCIPLE" WHICH COULD BE RESOLVED BY PROMPT PUBLIC APOLOGY,
PART OF FAMILIAR SURFACE PHENOMENA OF JAPANESE POLITICS.
INABA'S CONTINUED RECALCITRANCE, HOWEVER, IS BEING WIDELY
INTERPRETED AS CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT PRIMIN MIKI'S
"DIALOGUE" WITH OPPOSITION AND EMBARASS PRIMIN HIMSELF.
NEITHER MIKI NOR OPPOSITION ARE LIKELY TO FORGET. AT SAME
TIME PRESSURE ON INABA NOW BUILDING AND WE BELIEVE ODDS
BETTER THAN EVEN THAT HE WILL DISAVOW AND APOLOGIZE MAY 13.
IF SO WE WILL REVERT TO EARLIER RATHER DISMAL PROSPECTS
FOR MIKI LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WITH ONLY TWO DAYS' DIET
DELIBERATIONS LOST.
HODGSON

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